

07-09-2000

PCT/IB99/01573

CLMSPAMD

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

10

CLAIMS:

185 1. A coupler (16) for coupling an end of a wiper arm (12) to a windscreen wiper (14) having a resiliently flexible elongate beam (18) which is curved in a plane, comprising

a support structure (23); and

190 a mounting means (24.1, 24.2) for mounting the support structure to the beam;

195 characterized therein that the coupler has at least one spacing formation (26.1, 26.2) carried by the support structure, engageable in use with an upper surface of the beam, for spacing the upper surface of the beam a predetermined distance from the support structure.

2. The coupler as claimed in Claim 1, characterized therein that at least one spacing formation comprises a fulcrum formation which permits, in use, bending movement of the beam about the formation in the plane of curvature.

200 *SUB AG* The coupler as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~ characterized therein that there are a pair of spaced spacing formations.

4. The coupler as claimed in Claim 3, characterized therein that the support structure has an elongate, substantially planar base (22), with the spacing formations being defined on a bottom surface of the base.

AMENDED SHEET

07-09-2000

PCT/IB99/01573

CLMSPAMD

11

205 5. The coupler as claimed in Claim 4, characterized therein that each spacing formation comprises an elongate protrusion located transversely to the base and, in use, transversely to the plane of curvature of the beam.

210 6. The coupler as claimed in Claim 4, characterized therein that the mounting means comprises two pairs of spaced apart claws (24.1, 24.2) which extend from the base.

7. The coupler as claimed in Claim 6, characterized therein that each of the spacing formations is aligned with one of the pairs of claws.

215 8. The coupler as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized therein that it has a connecting structure (34) for pivotal connection to the wiper arm.

220 9. A windscreen wiper assembly (10) which includes a windscreen wiper (14) having a resiliently flexible elongate beam (18) which is curved in a plane and a coupler (16) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims engaged therewith.

225 10. The windscreen wiper assembly as claimed in Claim 9, characterized therein that [the spacing] between [the upper surface] of the beam and [the support structure] is sufficient to permit flexing, in use, of the beam.

AMENDED SHEET

07-09-2000

PCT/IB99/01573

CLMSPAMD

12

11. The windscreen wiper assembly as claimed in Claim 9, in which the coupler
is as claimed in Claim 6, and characterised therein that the spacing between the
claws of each pair is substantially equal to the width of the beam at that position.

12. The windscreen wiper assembly as claimed in Claim 9, characterized therein
that the beam has a securing formation (48) for securing the support structure to
the beam in a manner to inhibit longitudinal movement of the beam relative to the
coupler at that position.

Add > A 3

13-